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NJ

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WATCHUNG TROOP 32 HONORS EAGLE SCOUTS FOR PROJECTS BENEFITING WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH

Submitted by Yvette Nora Whitley

On June 5, Watchung Troop 32 held a celebration at the Elks Pavilion in Warren to honor Elliott Gargano and Jacob Weber, two high school seniors who had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout earlier this year. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process. The Eagle Scout rank has been earned by over 2.5 million youth.

Elliott Gargano developed and installed a small bird sanctuary consisting of six birdhouses and three nesting platforms to attract birds to the area and provide housing. It is located on the Kindness Trail situated in the rear property area of Wilson Memorial Church on Valley Road in Watchung. It is open to the general community and all are welcome to visit. Elliott recently graduated from Immaculata High School and will attend Stevens Institute of Technology in the fall and plans to major in Physics.

Jacob Weber created a family community room and nursery which is situated in the school wing of Wilson Memorial. For this project, he created storage benches, constructed a privacy wall for young mothers, painted walls and installed new carpeting. Since the reopening of the church for worship, the family room has been an important component to provide safety and comfort to little ones. Jacob graduated from Watchung Hills Regional High School and will attend SUNY Binghamton in September.

Troop 32 serves the town of Watchung through youth development, community service projects, and participation in civil ceremonies and dedications. This organization has been in existence for 84 years and Elliott and Jacob become the 120th and 121st Eagle Scouts respectively to come from this troop.

Wilson Memorial Church is the charter organization for the troop as well as Watchung Cub Scout Pack 32.



(above, l-r) Jacob Weber and Elliott Gargano were celebrated at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony.



(above) A newly constructed family room at Wilson Memorial Church was created and managed by Eagle Scout Jacob Weber.



(above) Elliott Gargano built and installed birdhouses and nesting platforms on the Kindness Trail at Wilson Memorial Church.



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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

TEAMS NEEDED FOR CORNHOLE FUNDRAISER

Safe+Sound Somerset (S+SS), Somerset County's lead domestic abuse organization, is hosting Cornhole, Beer & Donuts! on Wednesday, September 8. Norris McLaughlin, P.A. will sponsor the inaugural event supporting survivors of domestic abuse in achieving safety, hope and healing at S+SS.

S+SS is currently seeking teams for the double-elimination tournament, which will be held on Division St. in Somerville. Check in begins at 5 p.m. with the tournament kickoff at 5:30 p.m. Following, Project Pub will host participants for Beer & Donuts where we will celebrate the winners. Registration for a team of 2 in the tournament and Beer & Donuts is \$180. A Slider Sponsor for \$350 is entitled to 2 team registrations, Beer & Donuts for all, and recognition at the event and in pre-event publicity. Registrations before August 15 will receive a special early-bird gift; the final deadline to register is August 31. Register at safe-sound.org/cornhole. Call 908-359-0003, ext. 201 for additional information or email kcantwell@safe-sound.org.

Proceeds from Cornhole, Beer & Donuts will support survivors of domestic abuse in achieving safety, hope and healing at Safe+Sound Somerset. Current estimates are that one in three women and one in four men will be directly impacted by domestic abuse during their lifetime (CDC, 2010). Each year, there are about 2,000 domestic violence offenses reported in Somerset County, New Jersey. Based on industry statistics, another 10,000 adults are most likely victimized but don't report the abuse to the authorities. These survivors are more than just a statistic. They are

our loved ones, neighbors, friends and coworkers.

At Safe+Sound Somerset, we envision a community free from domestic abuse, where individuals and families thrive in body, mind and spirit. Our mission is to prevent and respond to domestic abuse with programs that provide safety, support and education for individuals, families and the community.

Safe+Sound Somerset is the only private, non-profit organization in Somerset County providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic abuse and their families.

Established in 1978, S+SS has continually expanded to offer a broad range of trauma-informed, evidence-based services offering safety, hope and healing. Our services include: a 24-hour toll-free Crisis Hotline, Emergency Safe House, Legal Advocacy, Individual and Group Counseling for adult and child survivors of domestic abuse, and Financial Literacy / DV Housing First. Our SPEAK™ Community Outreach & Education program builds awareness around this societal epidemic, changes misperceptions, increases understanding of power and control as it relates to breaking free from violence, and provides information on how to access services. SPEAK™ offers customized programs for youth, parents and people working with youth; businesses and corporate groups; places of worship, community groups, and other organizations.

For help or more information about Safe+Sound Somerset's services, call or text our 24/7 confidential hotline at 866-685-1122. Services are provided free of charge, in a confidential and culturally sensitive environment.

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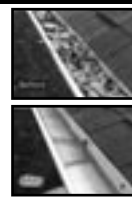
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SCLSNJ CONNECTING HOMEBOUND CUSTOMERS TO BOOKS, MEDIA

For 80-year-old Hillsborough resident Jose Cuevas, visiting the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Hillsborough branch three times per week was one of his favorite activities until health restrictions made it difficult for him to leave his apartment.

In order to connect Library customers, like Cuevas, that are experiencing temporary or permanent qualifying barriers to visiting physical Library locations, SCLSNJ launched the Home Borrowing Library Services (HBLS) program. The program, which was piloted earlier this year, has launched System-wide as of May 1.

"I am delighted with the official launch of HBLS, which underlines SCLSNJ's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion by providing equitable access to our Library services," said Jen Sulligan, civic services supervisor. "Staff are committed to engaging with our customers and providing support to ensure that everyone in our community can connect, explore, share, and discover with us, even if they cannot physically visit our branches."

Through this program, qualifying Library customers are able to receive customized packages containing the Library materials through the mail via the U.S. Postal Service or The New Jersey State Library Talking Book &

Braille Center; by family or friend pickup; and/or digital download.

"I am living happy; I am great," said Cuevas of being able to receive Library materials through the HBLS program. "I love a good library."

In addition, the HBLS program also offers Library customers the opportunity to connect with Library staff that can provide them with information about other Library programs and services.

"While our connections with home borrowers will focus on material borrowing services, the relationships formed will also serve as a new point-of-entry to remote Library services and programs that may be accessed from beyond our buildings," said Nicole Pascoe, civic services manager. "We look forward to continuing to enhance the development of HBLS throughout 2021. Restructuring these valuable and important services in a streamlined, simple, and safe way continues to be a priority of SCLSNJ."

If you or someone you know has difficulty visiting the Library, and would like more information about receiving materials by mail, connecting with digital resources, or designating a friend or family member to pick up materials, visit: SCLSNJ.org/HomeBorrowing or call 908-458-4935.

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Charles Sherrick
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I have been at Spring Grove for a few weeks now, they have exceptional service and excellent staff. All the nurses have been professional and attentive to all my needs. I never thought a rehab center can have such a beautiful layout and well put together. The newly renovated room I have stayed in, is up to date and extremely clean. The therapy staff have gone above my expectations with their expertise and getting me to where I am today. Alyssa the social worker has gone above and beyond with all her assignments.

Thank you Spring Grove.

Chrissy Sloan
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The nursing staff and administration is professional, patient, attentive and understanding. The facilities are very clean and well maintained. My parents room is always clean and tidy. Although it was a difficult decision to make relocating my folks from a home environment to a senior living facility, Spring Grove made my decision easy.

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THE WARREN LIONS CLUB EXPO IS BACK!

Scheduled for August 25-28, 2021. Spectacular Fireworks Show on Saturday, August 28.

After a year's hiatus due to COVID restrictions, the annual Lions EXPO will once again transform the Warren Township municipal field (46 Mountain Boulevard) into a classic carnival over four days, 6-10 p.m. from August 25 - 28, 2021, with amusement rides, games of chance, fireworks, food vendors and an exposition of local businesses. This will be the 53rd Annual EXPO, the flagship event of the Warren Lions Club.

The Lions EXPO attracts approximately 10,000 people over the four days and has become the premier family fun event in Warren Township

and the surrounding communities.

The EXPO will have a pay-one-price wristband every night this year. We will be holding a Giant 50/50 cash raffle with the drawing on Saturday August 28th, resulting in a multi-thousand dollar payout to a single winner. The winner need not be present. Tickets will be available for purchase throughout the Expo dates for \$5 each.

"Hosting the EXPO is more than a tradition, it's our resolve to spread the smiles on people's faces, especially after the difficult period we all have endured for more than a year" said Mark Ramos, the 2021 EXPO chairperson of the Warren Township Lions Club.

The Lions Club, as well as the games, rides and food vendors at the EXPO are committed to observing the state mandated COVID safety guidelines in force during the Expo dates. In addition to multiple washing stations adjacent to the restrooms, special hand sanitation stations will be available throughout the Expo. All patrons are kindly asked to cooperate with the state mandated guidelines.

ABOUT THE LIONS CLUB OF WARREN TOWNSHIP

When caring people join together, roll up their sleeves and take action to make their community better, it's a beautiful thing—and an incredible feeling for everyone involved. That's Lions.

Being a Lion is about leading by example, building relationships and improving the world through kindness. The service of Lions reaches around the planet. Serving in over 200 countries and geographic areas, our 48,000 clubs and 1.4 million members are helping others and making communities better.

The Warren Lions Club currently has close to 90 active members from Warren Township and surrounding communities. Members include business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and bonding in the communities. All funds raised by the Lions Club of Warren Township are used to support a wide variety of community service organizations and projects. The Club holds dinner meetings every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from September through June and occasionally feature speakers, donation recipients and special guests that inform and entertain. The Club encourages all members to help set the direction of our Club, participate in leadership roles, and identify causes to support and the Club's priorities, while fostering camaraderie and advancing our mission. To learn more about us, please visit our Warren Lions Club website warrenlionsclub.org and on Facebook.

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Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free and registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit SCLSNJ.org or call the Library for more information and to register.

SPECIAL OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor Summer Concert - Vinyl Traction (all ages)

August 7, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4923084.

Read to a Therapy Dog (grades K-4)

August 23, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

For more information:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4922790

or call 908-458-8450.

Outdoor Family Storytime (families with children)

August 30, 10-10:30 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4930960.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS - ALL AGES

Butterfly Program

August 12, 2-2:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4929625.

The Zanimal Show

August 18, 2-2:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4889869.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS - CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND TEENS

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

(ages 18 months - 5 years and caregivers)

Register now:

August 2, 10-10:30 a.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4903455.

August 4, 10-10:30 a.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4858355.

August 6, 10:30-11 a.m.:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4928464.

August 25, 10-10:30 a.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4858383.

Mythological Mondays

Unicorn Rescue Society (grades 2-4)

August 2, 2-2:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4914495.

Minotaur, Sphinx, and Cyclops, Oh My! (grades 3-5)

August 9, 2-2:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4914659.

LEAD - Leadership Exploration and Development Club (grades 6-9)

August 4, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4911071.

Explore Art -Create Your Own Paint By Numbers (grades 1-5)

August 4, 3-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4908363.

Understanding the College Essay (grades 9-12)

August 4, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4910237.

Family Storytime (families with children)

Register now:

August 4, 6:30-7 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4927690.

August 10, 10-10:30 a.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4929387.

August 11, 7-7:30 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4914535.

Meet the Author - Sharee Miller (grades K-4)

August 6, 3-4:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4882970.

Bilingual English/Spanish Storytime (ages 3-7 years and caregivers)

August 10, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4847343.

STEAM

The Night Sky (grades K-5)

August 11, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4898157.

Insect Symmetry (grades 1-4)

August 16, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4858209.

Elephant and Piggie -

Animal BFFs (grades K-2)

August 13, 11-11:30 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4929627.

Programa de STEM en Español - STEM Program in Spanish (grades 2-4)

August 14, 2-2:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4900578.

Mythological Monster Mondays (grades 6-12)

August 16, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4824208.

Panchatantra Stories (families with children)

August 17, 3-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4906773.

Art Workshop - Facial Expressions (grades 6-12)

August 18, 5-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4910254.

Dash's 5th Birthday Party (ages 3-6)

August 19, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4847399.

Family Night - Bottle Cap Bugs (families with children)

August 19, 7-7:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4914614.

Music and Movement With Miss Linda (ages 3-6 and caregivers)

August 20, 10:30-11 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4850086.

Virtual Scavenger Hunt (grades 6-12)

August 25, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4910265.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS - ADULTS

Meet the Author - Paul B. Skousen

August 2, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4888391.

Joseph A. Grabas

August 19, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4898538.

All About Animals

August 3, 3-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4908103.

The Story of Flounder Brewing - Presented by Jeremy "Flounder" Lees

August 3, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4898475.

Unblock Your Writer's Block

August 4, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4931222.

Shades of Blue -

Diving the Central Atolls of the Maldives

August 4, 7-8:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4894881.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Archives

August 5, 7-8 p.m.

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Shipwrecked - Presented by

Museum of Early Trades and Crafts

August 9, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4898520.

What's Next for Human Space Travel?

- Presented by Paul Cirillo

August 10, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4894898.

The Food Mood Connection

- Presented by Wendy Bonilla

August 11, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4904440.

Virtual Book Discussion Salon - Traditionally hosted at the Watchung branch

"This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger

August 12, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4925917.

America's National Parks -

Presented by Mary Rasa

August 13, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4922851.

The History of the United States Postal Service

August 16, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4898533.

Inventing Film - The Clergyman, the Capitalist and the Tragic Birth of Modern Cinema

August 17, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4894916.

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People and Places of the Garden State

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Going Against the Archival Grain -

Pop Culture Archives

August 30, 7-8 p.m.

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INICA KOTASTHANE WILL REPRESENT THE STATE AT GIRLS NATION

Inica Kotasthane, a Warren resident and a rising senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, was recently selected as one of two delegates from the New Jersey Girls State program to represent the state at Girls Nation. Girls Nation is the national equivalent of Girls State, and two exceptional delegates from each state program are voted on and selected to attend Girls Nation in Washington D.C. for one week. This is the first time that a Watchung Hills Regional High School student has been selected for this honor.

During ALA Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., the girls participate in a mock legislature. They are responsible for submitting bills and resolutions, participating in senate sessions, and electing officials such as president and vice president.

Participants leave ALA Girls Nation with leadership lessons for life and an understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. government, along with the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens. This seven-day experience has laid the foundation of thousands of bright futures in not only public service, but other careers as well. Some notable industries include government, military, law, education, and media.

ALA Girls Nation connects participants with their peers from across the country, allowing the young women a unique opportunity to spend time with others who share common interests and those who have different perspectives from their own. The girls leave Washington, D.C. with a deeper understanding of government, a renewed sense of patriotism, and an appreciation for veterans.

While in D.C., the senators visit Capitol Hill and meet with their state senators and representatives, providing each girl an opportunity to discuss local issues and share bills they have written as part of ALA Girls Nation. The girls also participate in field trips to see the historical Washington monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, and the White House.

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The ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation programs are privately funded and presented by members of the American Legion Auxiliary.



(above) Inica Kotasthane is one of two delegates from the New Jersey Girls State program to represent the state at Girls Nation.

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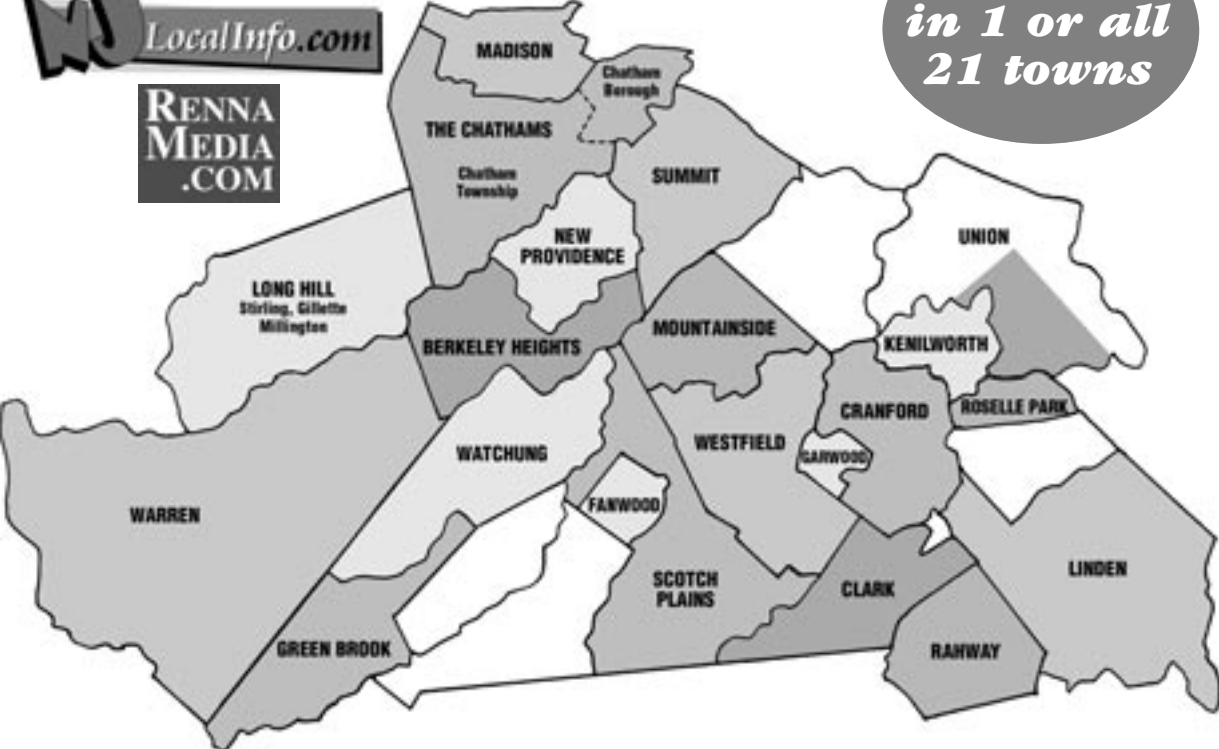
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
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LIBRARY CELEBRATES BODY POSITIVITY FOR YOUTH AND TEENS

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According to statistics from the National Organization for Women (NOW), approximately 43 percent of teenagers are "happy with their bodies." In order to encourage children, tweens, and teens to comprehend healthy body images, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) continues to expand their collection to include books that foster body positivity through an inclusive, mindfully-curated collection.

"Exploring and discovering our identities is a fundamental part of our teenage years," said Jodi Silverman, youth services supervisor. "Through this process, teenagers develop their self-awareness, acceptance, and empathy that affects not only their personal growth, but the way in which they interact with the world around them."

She continued, "When factoring in the negative developmental aspects of social distancing, such as a reliance on social media for modeling and a lack of direct peer support, it is

imperative that we provide them with positive psychosocial resources that promote core values, like self-esteem and body acceptance."

Data from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) shows that 90 percent of teens ages 13-17 have used social media. According to an article from the "Journal of Youth and Adolescence," there is a correlation between social media use and low self-esteem in adolescents

"One of SCLSNJ's core services is making personalized connections between customers and Library materials," said Katie Salerno, youth services librarian. "SCLSNJ has made it a point to be an essential part of the body positive movement through our collections that contain a variety of fiction and nonfiction books that celebrate all body types, in all skin tones, with birth marks, stretch marks, freckles, and more. Body positive books will help children and teens see that they should love themselves and their bodies, so that they can have confidence in who

they are and how they look."

Embrace the skin you are in and explore a diverse list of body positivity and acceptance titles available in your Library's catalog:

CHILDREN

- "Bodies Are Cool" by Tyler Feder
- "Love Your Body" by Jessica Sanders
- "Under Our Clothes: Our First Talk About Our Bodies" by Jillian Roberts Middle Grade/Tween
- "Starfish" by Lisa Fipps

TEENS

- "Body Positive: A Guide to Loving Your Body" by Emily Lauren Dick
- "Body Talk: 37 Voices Explore Our Radical Anatomy" edited by Kelly Jensen
- "Fat Chance, Charlie Vega" by Crystal Maldonado
- "Here the Whole Time" by Vitor Martins
- "I'll Be the One" by Lyla Lee
- "Love Is a Revolution" by Renée Watson
- "The (Other) F Word: A Celebration of the Fat & Fierce" edited by Angie Manfredi
- "Pumpkin" by Julie Murphy
- "The Self-Love Revolution: Radical Body Positivity for Girls of Color" by Virgie Tovar
- "Smash It!" by Francina Simone

"A movement toward body acceptance is now taking place in children and teen literature," said Laura Frantz, collection development librarian. "Many authors are sharing their own first-hand experiences in fictionalized and true stories. It is vital our communities continue to see and discover books that celebrate inclusivity and positivity."

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Explore a collection of handcrafted hooked rugs created by Clinton resident Lucy Walsh in the Art Space at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Warren Township branch. The fiber artist's award-winning original works have previously been exhibited in museums and galleries across New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



(above) Walsh posing in front of the cabinet display. The collection will be available for the public to observe during regular hours of operation until July 31. For artists interested in sharing their works of art, or for more information contact Kathy DeCristofaro at kdecristofaro@sclibnj.org.



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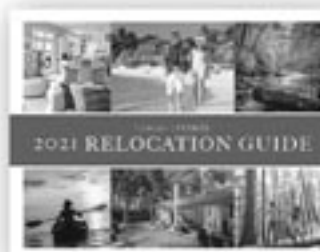
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